

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of demonstrating a virtual server service that provides use of a host computer server to a plurality of clients over a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving an active request from an active client to send an active control window of an active account of the virtual server service from the host computer server to an active client system;

receiving a first request at the host computer server from a prospective client system to demonstrate the virtual server service; and

under control of the host computer server, sending a simulated control window of the virtual server service to the prospective client system in response to the first request, the simulated control window having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate corresponding system administration components of the active control window of the virtual server service.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

sending the first systems manager page via the host computer server to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one first element that can be selected by the prospective client to request that the host computer server send another web page related to the first systems manager page.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

sending the first systems manager page via the host computer server to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one input field that the prospective client can input a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

sending the first systems manager page via the host computer server ~~system~~ to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one pull down menu having a plurality a choices from which the prospective client can select a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the demonstration components of the simulated control window comprise a server status component, an event manager component, a software manager component, a file manager component, an email manager component, a user manager component, a web manager component, and a database manager component, and wherein the method further includes:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window to the prospective client system, the second request being generated from the prospective client system by selection of one of the demonstration components; and

sending a selected systems manager page to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the selected systems manager page corresponding to the selected demonstration component.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the event manager component is a URL link to an event manager web page comprising a first element for hypothetically selecting tasks to be automatically performed by the host computer server for the virtual server service, a second element for hypothetically running selected tasks at a scheduled time, and a third element for hypothetically changing a virtual time zone, and wherein sending a systems manager page comprises sending the event manager page to the prospective client.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the software manager component is a URL link to a software manager web page comprising a first listing of hypothetically installed software packages, a second listing of hypothetically available software packages, a first element for hypothetically selecting the installed software packages, and a second element for selecting the available software packages, and wherein sending a systems manager page comprises sending the software manager page to the prospective client.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving a third request from the prospective client system to view a first software package page of a specific software package in response to the prospective client selecting the second element of the software manager page; and

sending the first software package page via the host computer server to the client system, the first software package page having a selector for hypothetically installing the specific software package.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of demonstrating a service that provides a computerized transaction to a plurality of clients via a server computer system coupled to a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving a first request from a prospective client via a prospective client system to demonstrate the computerized transaction; and

sending a simulated client interface to the client system via the computer server system in response to the first request, the simulated client interface having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate corresponding transaction components of an active client interface of the computerized service.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the computerized transaction is providing a virtual server service via a host server system, and wherein:

receiving a first request comprises receiving a request to demonstrate the virtual server service; and

sending a simulated client interface comprises sending a simulated control window of the virtual server service via a host server system, the simulated control window having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate corresponding system administration components of an active control window of the virtual server service.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one first element that can be selected by the prospective client to request that the host server system send another web page related to the first systems manager page.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one input field that the prospective client can input a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one pull down menu having a plurality a choices from which the prospective client can select a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the demonstration components of the simulated control window comprise a server status component, an event manager component, a software manager component, a file manager component, an email manager component, a user manager component, a web manager component, and a database manager component, and wherein the method further includes:

receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the simulated control window to the prospective client system, the second request being generated from the prospective client system by selection of one of the demonstration components; and

sending a selected systems manager page to the prospective client system in response to the second request, the selected systems manager page corresponding to the selected demonstration component.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of demonstrating a virtual server service that provides use of a host server computer to a plurality of clients over a computer network, the method comprising:

under control of a prospective client system, sending a first request to the host server computer for demonstrating the virtual server service; and

displaying at the prospective client system a simulated control window of the virtual server service received from the host server computer in response to the first request from the prospective client system, the simulated control window having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate corresponding administration components of an active control window of the virtual server service.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

sending a second request from the prospective client system after receiving the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

displaying the first systems manager page at the prospective client system in response to the receipt of the first systems manager page, the first systems manager page having at least one first element that can be selected by the prospective client to send another request to the host server computer for another web page related to the first systems manager page.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

sending a second request from the prospective client system after receiving the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

displaying the first systems manager page at the prospective client system in response to the receipt of the first systems manager page, the first systems manager page having at least one input field that the prospective client can input a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

sending a second request from the prospective client system after receiving the simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

displaying the first systems manager page at the prospective client system in response to the receipt of the first systems manager page, the first systems manager page having at least one pull down menu having a plurality a choices from which the prospective client can select a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the demonstration components of the simulated control window comprise a server status component, an event manager component, a software manager component, a file manager component, an email manager component, a user manager component, a web manager component, and a database manager component, and wherein the method further includes:

sending a second request from the prospective client system after receiving the simulated control window to the prospective client system, the second request being generated from the prospective client system by selection of one of the demonstration components; and

displaying a selected systems manager page at the prospective client system in response to the receipt of the selected systems manager page.

20. (Previously Presented) A system for demonstrating a computerized transaction to a prospective client, comprising:

a computer having a central processing unit that executes instructions to construct and transmit active account messages and demonstration messages, a memory for storing instructions to be executed, and a non-volatile storage medium;

an active account module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the active account module having an active account database, the database containing account data associated with a plurality of active accounts, and an active account control window having a plurality of system administration components operable to effectuate a computerized transaction associated with one of the active accounts;

a demonstration module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the demonstration module having a plurality of demonstration messages containing demonstration components operable to simulate a computerized transaction not associated with one of the active accounts; and

instructions stored in the memory of the computer that cause the central processor to -

(a) retrieve a demonstration message from the demonstration module in response to a request from a prospective client without first setting up an active account for the prospective client, and

(b) transmit the retrieved demonstration message to a prospective client system of the prospective client using a transmission medium.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein:

the active account ~~messages~~ components comprise a plurality of dynamic web pages that provide active tools for sending instructions to the computer to effectuate the computerized transaction; and

the demonstration messages comprise static web pages that provide replicas of the active account web pages and replicas of the active tools that do not provide instructions to effectuate the computerized transaction.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the computerized transaction is providing a virtual server service to resellers for configuring a virtual server via a computer network, and wherein:

the system administration ~~messages~~ components comprise a plurality of dynamic web pages that provide active tools for sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual server service of the active client; and

the demonstration messages comprise static web pages that provide replicas of the active account web pages and replicas of the active tools, the replicas of the active tools being disabled from sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual server service.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise an event manager web page having an element to simulate control of an event of the virtual server service.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a software manager web page having an element to simulate installation and/or uninstallation of a software package of the virtual server service.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise an email manager web page having an element to simulate control of an email unit of the virtual server service.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a database manager web page having an element to simulate control of a database of the virtual server service.

27. (Previously Presented) A virtual server service system for providing a virtual server service to an active client, comprising:

a host server having a central processing unit that executes instructions to construct and transmit active account messages and demonstration messages, a memory for storing instructions to be executed, and a non-volatile storage medium;

an active account module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the active account module having an active account database, the database containing account data associated with a plurality of active accounts, and an active account control window having a plurality of system administration components operable to configure the virtual server service in a desired configuration associated with one of the active accounts;

a demonstration module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the demonstration module having a plurality of demonstration messages containing demonstration components operable to simulate configuring of the virtual server service in a configuration not associated with one of the active accounts; and

instructions stored in the memory of the computer that cause the central processor to -

(a) retrieve a demonstration message from the demonstration module in response to a request from a prospective client without first setting up an active trial account for the prospective client, and

(b) transmit the retrieved demonstration message to a prospective client system of the prospective client using a transmission medium.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein:

the system administration ~~messages~~ components comprise a plurality of dynamic web pages that provide active tools for sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual server service of the active client; and

the demonstration messages comprise static web pages that provide replicas of the active account web pages and replicas of the active tools, the replicas of the active tools being disabled from sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual server service.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise an event manager web page having an element to simulate control of an event of the virtual server service.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a software manager web page having an element simulate installation and/or uninstallation of a software package of the virtual server service.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise an email manager web page having an element to simulate control of an email unit of the virtual server service.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a database manager web page having an element to simulate control of a database of the virtual server service.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having contents that cause a computer system to demonstrate a virtual server service that provides use of a host server computer to a plurality of clients over a computer network by:

 sending an active control window of an active account of the virtual server service from the host server computer to an active client system in response to an active request from the active client computer system; and

 sending a simulated control window of the virtual server service to a prospective client computer system that does not have access to an active account in response to a request received at the host server from a prospective client to demonstrate the virtual server service.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of demonstrating a virtual server service that provides use of a host server computer to a plurality of clients over a computer network, the method comprising:

 receiving an active request from an active client to send an active control window from the host server computer to a first client computer system, the active client having an active account on the host server computer allowing configuration of the virtual server service;

 receiving a first request at the host server computer from a prospective client to demonstrate the virtual server service, the prospective client not having an account on the host server allowing configuration of the virtual server service; and

under control of the host server, sending a simulated control window to a second client computer system in response to the first request, the simulated control window having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate corresponding system administration components of the active control window.